

NDT/RDT National Meeting

Defining and Addressing Technical and Policy Issues of National Concern for Dredged Material Management

Boston 3-5 May 2006

The focus of this meeting is to give Regional Dredging Teams an opportunity to define and address technical and policy issues of national concern. It is also an opportunity to directly address the NDT and engage in dialog about how to resolve some of these issues. Our approach is to use case studies of regional issues to stimulate a dialogue on solutions along with defining where help or intervention would be useful in coordinating our efforts for dredged material management. We are looking for issues that merit attention and solutions that have been attempted. We will use breakout discussion sessions to identify the problems, consider potential solutions and develop action lists for the NDT and RDTs to address. In the final plenary session we will prioritize these lists with input from the national perspective.

The agenda is organized into six plenary sessions and two afternoon breakout sessions (each with three concurrent discussion groups). The breakout sessions offer an opportunity to raise, discuss and prioritize issues needing resolution in the topic area. Breakout sessions will run concurrently, so come prepared to discuss and propose solutions! A final plenary session to report out on all of the breakouts and discuss next steps will be held on the morning of the final day. See the attached agenda followed by a more detailed overview of the sessions.

Plenary sessions will be held in the Alcott Room.

Breakout sessions will be held in Lowell/Hutch and Brandeis/Holmes



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Wednesday May 3, 2006

	Defining and Addressing Technical and Policy Issues of National Concern for Dredged Material Management
8:00 – 9:00	Registration Continental Breakfast Omni Parker House, Boston, MA
8:30 – 8:50	Welcome/Logistics (Mel Cote, Region I EPA, NERDT) Andrew B. Nelson, LTC, Deputy District Engineer Regional EPA Representative – Ira Leighton, Deputy Regional Administrator
8:50 – 9:10	Setting the Stage: NDT Perspective (NDT co-chairs) A description of what NDT does, how it resolves issues and the importance of this role. Where are NDT and RDTs headed?
9:10 – 9:25	Perspective of the Committee on the Marine Transportation System – Gary Magnuson Cabinet-level committee with MTS and NDT oversight
9:25 - 9:40	Port Operators Perspective (David Sanford AAPA) The role comprehensive port planning plays in RDT work and what ports need from NDT/RDT
9:40 – 10:00	Break
10:00-10:30	Economic Drivers for Dredging: Problems with Economic Data Mark Habel (NAE, NERDT) Need for coordination on sources of economic data and justification for navigation priorities.
10:30-11:00	Recreational Use in Great Lakes Region, Wayne Schloop USACE(GLDT) Project management approaches in regions with heavy recreational use of harbors.
11:30-12:00	Sediment Characterization: Sediment screening for Beneficial Reuse Steve Goldbeck BCDC (SFRDT) Regional development of sediment guidelines and staging facilities.
12:00-12:30	Regional Sediment Evaluation: How do we get agreement with different standards? John Malek (PNWRDT)
12:30 – 1:45	Lunch (on your own)
1:45 – 2:15	Ecological Concerns Port Expansion in South Florida: Protection of sensitive ecosystem. Terri Jordan, SAD (SERDT)
2:15 – 2:45	Can a DMMP include Superfund and Navigation Projects? Jim Reese, NWD (PNWRDT)
2:45 – 3:00	Break
3:00 – 4:30	Concurrent Breakout sessions. Each session will have short briefings and facilitation with specific goals to report out to larger group. Economic Drivers for Dredging: Briefing on system planning for low use navigation projects, Jim Reese (PNWRDT) Sediment Characterization: Briefings on Regional Manuals, Matt Liebman and Phillip Nimeskern (NERDT); Dave Knight (GLRDT) Ecological Concerns: Briefing on Gulf of Mexico Biological Opinion Daniel Small (SERDT)
4:30 – 5:30	Facilitators and Meeting Co-chairs meet to review results of breakouts

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Thursday May 4, 2006

	Defining and Addressing Technical and Policy Issues of National Concern for Dredged Material Management
8:00 – 9:00	Registration Continental Breakfast
8:30 – 8:50	Seasonal Constraints What is a little mud between friends? Doug Clarke, ERDC Progress on national issues: coordination, commonality, and an approach Why EFH is really Essential. Mike Ludwig, NMFS Co-existing in the Southern New England and NY/NJ regions Why is it so hard to tell if dredging bothers Winter Flounder? Walter Berry, EPA/ERL Providence River Dredging project results
8:50 – 9:10	
9:10 – 9:30	
9:30 – 10:00	Regional Sediment Management: Experiences and challenges: Lynn Martin, USACE Institute for Water Resources Lessons from Corps RSM demonstration projects Surviving a Hurricane: Timbalier Island Restoration: Patty Taylor EPA Region 6 (WGRDT) Dune and marsh restoration after Katrina Overcoming Impediments at State level: Dan Goulet, RI CRMC Dredging Coordinator Steps that states could take to improve RSM
10:00 – 10:20	
10:20 – 10:40	
10:40 – 11:00	Break
11:00 – 11:30	Management Options: Sediment Treatment from Lab to Full Scale: “You can’t get there from here” Prof. Kevin Gardner UNH CAD Cells: A space limited, short-term solution? Thomas Fredette, NAE
11:30 – 12:00	
12:00 – 1:30	Lunch (on your own)
1:30 – 3:00	Concurrent Breakout sessions Seasonal Constraints Seasonal restrictions Left Coast Style: Brian Ross (First Team All-RDT) RSM: Briefings on Regional Beneficial Use - DM Management Plans, Dan Small (SERDT) Eric Raffini (SoCalRDT). Management Options Briefing on Ocean Disposal John Malek (PNWRDT) and Doug Pabst (NY/NJRDT)
3:00 – 3:30	Break
3:30 – 4:30	Managing Sediments in the Watershed: A national conference bringing dredged material and watershed managers together to be held in Portland, OR, August 29-31. Facilitated discussion of the role that RDTs have in watershed management and identification of regional watershed management approaches. Lynn Martin, Molly Madden (NDT)
4:30 – 5:00	Case Study of NDT Issue Resolution: National Overdepth Guidance NDT co-chairs and RDT reps will facilitate discussion of what went well and what could work better in the issue resolution process using the national overdepth guidance as a case study.
5:00 – 6:00	Facilitators and Meeting Co-chairs meet to review breakout results

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Friday May 5, 2006

	Defining and Addressing Technical and Policy Issues of National Concern for Dredged Material Management
8:00 – 9:00	Registration for single day participants Continental Breakfast
8:30 – 9:30	Breakout Results: Action lists on Issues Report out on breakout sessions: provide overview of discussion and next steps. Meeting Co-chairs present action lists.
9:30 – 11:15	Synthesis NDT panel response and discussion. Opportunity to address RDT concerns to national leaders and engage in dialogue about the next steps. Panel will provide general response and initial discussion. There will be time for open mike for RDTs to voice whatever is on their minds, and conclude with time for NDT co-chairs to respond to RDT concerns Craig Vogt USEPA (NDT Co-chair) Angela Premo USACE (NDT Co-chair) David Sanford (AAPA Director of Navigation Policy and Legislation) Joseph Payne (Friends of Casco Bay)
11:15 – 12:00	Prioritization of Action list for NDT and RDTs Review and prioritize the action lists in light of synthesis discussion. Facilitator Drew Carey Closing remarks: Mel Cote Region I EPA, Tom Fredette ACOE, Mike Ludwig NMFS (NERDT co-chairs)
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch (on your own)
12:00 – 4:15	Optional Boston Harbor Boat Tour

PLENARY SESSIONS

Setting the Stage

Movement towards increasing use of regional approaches to dredged material management and the parallel efforts to widen comprehensive port planning require RDTs to address a growing array of issues including economics, contaminants, biological resources, and management across increasingly wider horizons. The NDT co-chairs, a representative from the Committee on the Marine Transportation System, and a representative of US ports will describe this movement to a regional focus and their views of the role of the NDT and RDTs in helping to resolve these issues. Additionally, the NDT co-chairs will provide an overview current and potential operational and management issues for the RDT and NDT.

Economics Drivers for Dredging and Management

Before we can discuss the implementation of regional management and decisionmaking, we need to recognize that none of these activities takes place without money. Most federal projects are funded harbor by harbor, not on a regional basis. Management of navigation only occurs when the case is made that navigation in a specific location is beneficial to the nation's economy. Most commercial projects rely, in part, on access via federal channels. There are some handicaps inherent with our approach to collecting and sharing data on the economic value of navigation projects. The big cargo ports with mandatory reporting of tonnage and value data work reasonably well – but the small harbors that produce fishing and/or recreational outputs are tougher to develop measurable metrics for – for fishing in particular. This session will provide an outline of the elements of the problem and some regional approaches that have seen success.

Breakout session goals:

1. Identify regions with harbor funding issues
2. Identify categories of economic data conflicts
3. Propose coordination approach between Federal agencies and with states to improve data.

Sediment Characterization

Forward planning requires knowledge of the challenges facing resource agencies and project proponents in the form of contaminated sediments that might require dredging. Dredged material management plans typically project volumes of sediment that may be disposed by specified alternatives. Cost-effective solutions to regional characterization of future sediment volumes have proven elusive. Two regions will describe challenges they have faced with defining standards and developing testing/assessment methods for sediments.

Breakout session goals:

1. How well are regional standards working?
2. Identify problems with national/regional standards application
3. Propose resources to help develop regional standards approach.

Regional Sediment Management

Regional Sediment Management (RSM) is an integrative approach to managing sediment as a resource. Opportunities to apply the RSM approach involve activities that affect the transport, removal, and deposition of sediment and are often developed with dredged material management plans. Examples include dredging and placement; building structures that divert or trap sediment; erosion protection for riverbanks, shorelines, lake- and seabeds, and channel bottoms; and sand and gravel mining for construction or other purposes. The Corps is implementing the RSM approach through demonstration initiatives and collaborating with other agencies to develop

solutions. The demonstration projects provide experience and some understanding of the challenges facing implementation of RSM in each region. This session will provide an overview of these demonstration projects and the perspective of one state dredging coordinator on the legal, cost and regulatory challenges and benefits of RSM. **We have a special presentation on the fate of Timbalier Island, Terrebonne Parish after Katrina. Timbalier has been the site of an intensive dune and wetland restoration and sediment addition project funded by the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA).**

Breakout session goals:

1. Promote wider understanding of the RSM concept and how RSM can be implemented
2. Capture RSM experiences from several regions
3. Short list of benefits and cost-saving opportunities
4. Short list of challenges to implementation
5. Action list for NDT and RDTs

Seasonal Constraints

Seasonal constraints on dredging are driven by concern for impacts of dredging on sensitive biological resources (winter flounder, salmon) with seasonal activities (spawning, migration, settlement). In many regions, there is very limited data available to predict the presence of resources and the risk of dredging to different life stages. There has been recent progress. This session will feature three speakers who will address in turn: the national perspective including the utility of cooperation, the commonality of the issues across regions and some ideas on how to approach the issue; regional dredging investigations into impacts on Essential Fish Habitat; development of dredging programs which avoid or minimize impacts and costs and results of cooperative lab and field research on sedimentation impacts on winter flounder eggs. Each of these presentations will be described in the context of recent dredging projects and how best to use the presented information to approach seasonal constraints. A perspective on seasonal restrictions on the West Coast will be presented in the breakout session.

Breakout session goals:

1. Identify key information needs for each region
2. Identify opportunities for cooperation
3. Action list for NDT and RDTs

Ecological Concerns

Dredged material management and port planning require anticipation of potential ecological impacts of projects. Coordination of agencies and stakeholders early in the process has proven successful in developing project plans that avoid or minimize ecological impacts. How can these lessons be brought into longer range and regional planning efforts? Presenters from several regions will describe how they are tackling these issues.

Breakout session goals:

1. How to determine path to least impact?
2. Identify approaches that can be incorporated into regional and long range planning
3. Action list for NDT and RDTs

Management Options for Contaminated Sediments

Most regions face considerable challenges with the need to dredge urban harbors with legacies of contaminated sediments. Treating or sequestering these “chemically challenged” sediments can be cost-prohibitive for many projects. As each new management alternative is proposed,

regions must spend time and effort assessing the feasibility and economics of each alternative. Regional experts will present perspectives on alternatives ranging from sediment treatment and in harbor confined disposal cells. Several regions will provide briefings on developments in Ocean Disposal.

Breakout session goals:

1. Identify management options currently in use
2. Identify management options under consideration by regions
3. Action list for NDT and RDTs

Overview of Issue Resolution: National Overdepth Guidance

NDT co-chairs and RDT reps will facilitate discussion of what went well and what could work better in the NDT/RDT issue resolution process using the overdepth guidance as a case study. Session will provide opportunity to discuss further the relationship among these organizations.

Managing Sediments in the Watershed

The NDT and the Subcommittee on Integrated Management of Ocean Resources ([SIMOR](#)) are sponsoring a conference on: **“Managing Sediments in the Watershed:**

Bringing Dredged Material and Watershed Managers Together”

Portland, OR, August 29-31.

Dredged material management necessarily overlaps with watershed management, but there are often distinct offices and agency missions involved. Many watershed managers focus on sediments (runoff, agricultural erosion, sinks) and many RDTs wrestle with watershed issues. This session is intended to identify the roles, interests and responsibilities of RDTs in watershed management, and identify corresponding watershed managers in each region.

Breakout Results

Breakout session chairs will present the action lists developed by each breakout session and summarize the results of the sessions with meeting co-chairs at the end of each day. The meeting co-chairs will summarize and present the action lists of all breakout sessions on Friday morning

Synthesis

A panel of national and regional representatives will respond to the presentations and results of the breakout sessions. This is an opportunity to engage in a dialogue about concerns identified at the regional level that may benefit from national attention. Session will provide time for an open mike for RDTs to voice what is on their minds and responses from the NDT co-chairs.

- How does the NDT resolve issues?
- Are there communication/infrastructure issues among RDTs or with the NDT?
- What is needed from the NDT and RDTs to address potential issues and conflicts?

ACTION LIST

After the panel discussion and response, we will prioritize the action lists from the breakout sessions for NDT and RDTs and hear closing remarks from the co-chairs of the conference.